

Feb 21, 2023

Good afternoon ranking members and members of the committee. Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Luis Ortiz, State Grassroots Manager at ConnCAN and I'm here in support of House Bill 6663.

First and foremost I'd like to thank Representative Antonio Felipe and Representative Juan Candelaria for listening to the community's needs and Championing HB 6211. HB 6211 went from an idea to a Governor's priority in a matter of weeks and that wouldn't have happened without both of their support from the very beginning. I'd also like to give thanks to Governor Lamont for not only listening to our diverse community leaders but for acting with swiftness in making an "ELL Parents Bill of Rights" a priority for his administration this session.

It is essential that all parents, regardless of their language proficiency, have access to the same rights and resources to ensure their children's education, health, and well-being. Language barriers should not prevent parents from advocating for their children's needs and receiving the same level of support and guidance as English-speaking parents.

A Parent Bill of Rights that includes translation services, language-accessible resources, and cultural sensitivity training for service providers would be a valuable tool for non-English speaking families. This bill would provide these families with the necessary tools to communicate effectively with their children's schools and healthcare providers and empower them to advocate for their children's best interests.

Moreover, providing non-English speaking families with a Parent Bill of Rights would promote equity and inclusivity in our communities. It would ensure that all families, regardless of their language background, have access to the same opportunities and resources, which is a fundamental aspect of a just and fair society.

Needless to say, a Parent Bill of Rights for families that don't speak English would be a critical step towards promoting equity and inclusivity and most importantly Hope in our communities. It would provide non-English speaking families with the tools they need to advocate for their children's needs and promote their well-being. It would ensure all families have the same chance at setting their children up for success.

For these reasons, I support HB 6663.



Thank you for your time and consideration.